

CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

ROUTING

DATE 1701Z 07 SEP 63

S E C R E T

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ED
RB

TO

FROM

ACTION: OSA 1-15

INFO :

TOR: 1725Z 07 SEP 63

ROUTINE

IN 90386

25X1

TO

INFO

CITE

IDEALIST

REF: [REDACTED]

1. WE CONSIDER PROPOSED SEXTANT MODS DESIRABLE AND BELIEVE THEY WOULD RESULT IN SOME MINOR INCREASE IN RELIABILITY. ONE PARTICULAR AREA WHICH HAS CAUSED MINOR DIFFICULTY IS PRESENCE OF GHOST IMAGES. STICKY CONTROLS, BUBBLE SIZE AND LIGHT ILLUMINATION HAVE NOT BEEN A SERIOUS PROBLEM BUT OCCASIONALLY DO REQUIRE ADJUSTMENTS. THE SEXTANT HAS BEEN AROUND FOR SOME TIME AND THE IMPROVEMENTS SUGGESTED WOULD CERTAINLY BE NICE TO HAVE INCLUDED. ONE SIGNIFICANT ANTICIPATED ADVANTAGE WOULD BE IMPROVEMENT IN THE MAINTENANCE AREA. ALSO THE SKY COMPASS FEATURE WOULD PROVIDE A CAPABILITY WHICH WE DO NOT HAVE.

2. WE ANTICIPATE VERY LITTLE IMPROVEMENT IN NAVIGATION ACCURACY AS A RESULT OF THE PROPOSED MODS. WE EXPECT APPROXIMATELY THE SAME CEA FROM CELESTIAL NAV LEGS AS WE ARE NOW EXPERIENCING.

3. IN SUMMARY WE FEEL THAT THE MODS WOULD BE NICE TO HAVE PROVIDED THEY CAN BE JUSTIFIED IN VIEW OF THE ANTICIPATED "LARGE COSTS" PAR 1, REF MSG., BUT SUSPECT THAT THE COST MAY NOT OUTWEIGH THE ADVANTAGES EXPECTED.

END OF MESSAGE

S E C R E T

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